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Claim Objections

Claim 16 was objected to due to the term "like a per se known SMD-component." The term has been deleted from claim 16.

Claim Rejections – 15 USC § 102

Claims 11-15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S. C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Krueger et al.

Claim 11 has been amended to replace the word "comprising" with "consisting of." As shown in Fig. 1 and the description on page 7, second paragraph (starting at line 4), the conductors 2 are furnished with gaps which are bridged with lower-melting material. Thus the bridge consists of the lower-melting material, while in Krueger the lower-melting material 138 is only applied on top of the bridge, which is made of piece 135 (see Figs. 3G and 3H) as one piece including the terminals 125 and 130. The material of the pieces 135, of with the bridge is cut, is copper (Column 5, lines 8-12). The lower-melting material of the smaller piece, even if exposed to high temperatures, will not break the bridge since the bridge is made of copper. The fuse shown in Krueger et al. will only react to high currents and will not break due to temperature due to the copper material.

Accordingly, Krueger et al. does not anticipate claim 11 as amended, not does it contain any suggestion or motivation to convert the fuse into a heat fuse. The words "heat" or "thermal" do not occur anywhere in the entire specification of Krueger et al. Claim 11 is thus believed to be patentable.

Since claims 11-19 depend on claim 11, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Claim Rejections – 15 USC § 103

Claims 16, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Krueger et al. in view of Montgomery et al.

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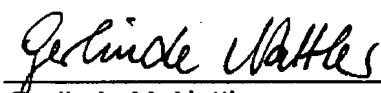
Claims 16 and 17 depend on amended claim 11 and are thus believed to be patentable.

Claim 20 has been amended to replace the word "comprising" with "consisting of." Neither Krueger nor Montgomery disclose a bridge consisting of material with a lower melting point than the strip conductors and thus do not render obvious the manufacture of any heat fuse.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant believes that the claims as amended overcome the raised objections and prior-art rejections.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerlinde M. Nattler
Registration No. 51,272
Continental Teves, Inc.
One Continental Drive
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
(248) 393-8721
~ Agent for Applicants